

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the application as amended. Claim 9 has been canceled. By earlier amendment claim 10 was canceled and claims 11-14 were withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that a separator page spread is between a final page spread of a first plurality of successive page spreads and an initial page spread of a second plurality of successive page spreads and that the page spreads comprise two pages with the first sequence of page identifiers on one of the pages and the second sequence of page identifiers on the other page. Claims 2-6 and 8 have been amended to properly refer to antecedent elements of claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,809,246 (Jeng) and has rejected claims 2-9 over Jeng in view of other secondary references. The Examiner contends that Jeng expressly teaches an overlayable sequence of page identifiers that successively increases in the total number of open hole location by at least one open hole location. The Examiner admits that Jeng does not teach a second decreasing sequence of page identifiers. However, the Examiner notes that Jeng's overall teaching is that one page can be differentiated from another page by having at least one hole different between one page and the next. To overcome the deficiencies in the teachings of Jeng, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skilled in the art to create the second sequence of decreasing page identifiers by duplicating the code disclosed in Jeng. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the foregoing amendment.

Claim 1 is directed to a book encoded for optical page identification and as amended recites, *inter alia*,

a first plurality of successive page spreads, each successive page spread comprising a first page and a second page, the first plurality of successive page spreads terminating with a final page spread;

a first sequence of successive page identifiers associated with the first page of each successive page spread of the first plurality of successive page spreads, the first sequence of successive page identifiers comprising overlayable arrangements of adjoining open-

hole and closed-hole locations, each successive arrangement of the first sequence of successive page identifiers decreasing in a first total number of open-hole locations by at least one open-hole location;

a second plurality of successive page spreads, each successive page spread comprising a third page corresponding to the first page of the first plurality of successive page spreads and a fourth page corresponding to the second page of the first plurality of successive page spreads, the second plurality of successive page spreads beginning with an initial page spread;

a second sequence of successive page identifiers associated with the fourth page of each successive page spread of the second plurality of successive page spreads, the second sequence of successive page identifiers comprising overlayable arrangements of adjoining open-hole and closed-hole locations, each successive arrangement of the second sequence of successive page identifiers increasing in a second total number of open-hole locations by at least one open-hole location; and

a separator page spread between the final page spread of the first plurality of successive page spreads and the initial page spread of the second plurality of successive page spreads, the separator page comprising a fifth page and a sixth page, the fifth page having a closed-hole location corresponding to each open-hole location of the first page of the final page spread of the first plurality of successive page spreads, the sixth page having a closed-hole location corresponding to each open-hole location of the fourth page of the initial page spread of the second plurality of successive page spreads. (emphasis added)

Claim 1 has been amended to recite first and second pluralities of successive page spreads, and a separator page between the final page of the first plurality and the initial page of the second plurality. Additionally, the page spreads for both pluralities and the separator page spread comprise two pages, the encoding for the first plurality being on the first page and the encoding for the second plurality being on the fourth page. An embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 5 discloses these features.

Jeng does not disclose two sequences of page identifiers, one increasing and the other decreasing in the number of open-hole locations. Further, Jeng does not disclose that the identifiers of each sequence are on correspondingly different pages, namely, the identifiers of the first sequence being on the first page of each successive page spread of the first plurality and the

identifiers for the second sequence being on the fourth page of each successive page spread of the second plurality, and which fourth page corresponds in position to the second page of the page spreads for the first plurality of successive page spreads. Still further, Jeng does not disclose that a separator page is in the recited location between the first and second pluralities of successive page spreads.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no objective teaching in Jeng that would enable one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Jeng book in a manner that would render the present invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Referring to Table 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the code disclosed by Jeng, if duplicated, would anticipate the present. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The duplication as proposed by the Examiner produces a four bit reflected binary code and in view of the teachings in Jeng, a code that must be detectable by an array of four optical detectors when the corresponding pages overlay each other and the underlying array. Absent placing the ascending sequence (0000 to 0111) on one page of a two page spread and the descending sequence (0111 to 0000) on the other page of the two page spread, an arrangement that is not taught by Jeng, and the addition of an additional and correspondingly positioned second array of optical detectors, also not taught by Jeng, the encoding proffered by the Examiner is at least partially undetectable. When the page with the reflective code (1111) having zero open-hole locations is positioned over the detector array, the subsequent overlaying codes can not be read by the detector array.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants believe that independent claim 1 is patentably distinct over Jeng and, respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended claims 2-8 to properly refer to antecedent elements of claim 1. Claims 2-8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that for the reasons set forth above regarding the patentability of claim 1, claims 2-8 also are patentably distinct over Jeng in view of the cited secondary references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2-8 be withdrawn.

Applicants have canceled claim 9, rendering the rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-8, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 21, 2008
(Date)

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